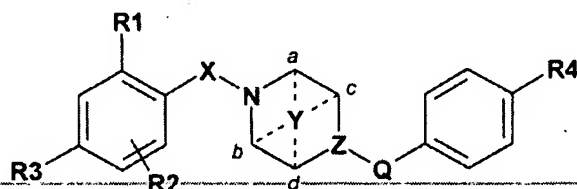


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Application No.: 10/599,819

AMENDMENT TOTHE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,



I

wherein

R1, R2 and R3 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, halo, nitro or optionally substituted (C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₂₋₇ alkyenyl, C₂₋₇ alkynyl, amino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl); or substituted oxy, substituted carbonyl, substituted sulfur; or a substituent forming a bicyclic ring system of which the phenyl ring to which it is attached forms part of the bicycle;

R4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, halo, nitro or optionally substituted (C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₂₋₇ alkyenyl, C₂₋₇ alkynyl, amino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl) or substituted oxy, substituted carbonyl, substituted sulfur;

X is -CH=CHCO-;

Y is -CH₂OCH₂- and is bonded to the ring carbon atoms c and d;

Z is N or -CH-;

Q is -CH₂-, -NH- or -O-;

wherein, when Z is N, Q is CH₂, and when Z is -CH-, Q is -NH- or -O-;

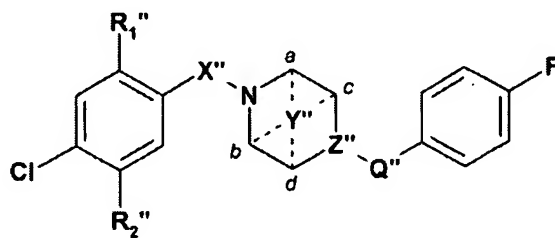
the optional substituents on R1, R2, R3 and R4 are one or more, substituents, independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxo, cyano, halo, nitro or

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optionally substituted (C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₂₋₇ alkenyl, C₂₋₇ alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, amino), or substituted oxy, substituted sulfur, substituted sulfinyl, substituted sulfonyl; wherein the optionally substituted substituents are optionally substituted once or more by a substituent independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxo, cyano, halo, nitro, hydroxy, C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₂₋₇ alkenyl, C₂₋₇ alkynyl, amino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; wherein oxy represents -O-; sulfur represents radicals

-S-, $\text{--}\overset{\text{||}}{\text{S}}\text{--}$ and >S= ~~-S-, S(O)- or S(O)₂-~~ and carbonyl represents -C(O)-.

2. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 wherein R₁ is an optionally substituted amino, amide, sulfonyl, sulfonamide or heterocycloalkyl group, the optional substituents being selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxo, cyano, halo, nitro or optionally substituted (C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₂₋₇ alkenyl, C₂₋₇ alkynyl, heteroaryl heterocycloalkyl, amino), or substituted oxy, substituted sulfur, substituted sulfinyl, substituted sulfonyl; wherein the optionally substituted substituents are optionally substituted once or more by a substituent independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxo, cyano, halo, nitro, hydroxy, C₁₋₇ alkyl, C₂₋₇ alkenyl, C₂₋₇ alkynyl, amino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl.
3. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula I according to claim 1 wherein R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methoxy, trifluoromethoxy, aryl, heteroaryl, C₁₋₇ alkyl.
4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, having the formula II, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof:



II

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wherein

R_1'' and R_2'' are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, halo, nitro or optionally substituted (C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{2-7} alkenyl, C_{2-7} alkynyl, amino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl) or substituted oxy, substituted carbonyl, substituted sulfur; or a substituent forming a bicyclic ring system of which the phenyl ring to which it is attached forms part of the bicycle;

X'' is $-\text{CH}=\text{CHCO}-$;

Y'' is $-\text{CH}_2\text{OCH}_2-$ and is bonded to the ring carbon atoms c and d ;

Z'' is N or $-\text{CH}-$;

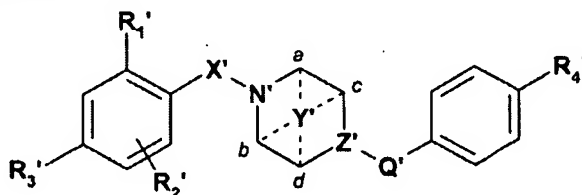
Q'' is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{NH}-$ or $-\text{O}-$;

wherein when Z'' is N, Q'' is CH_2 , and when Z'' is $-\text{CH}-$, Q'' is $-\text{NH}-$ or $-\text{O}-$;

the optional substituents on R_1'' and R_2'' are one or more substituents, independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxo, cyano, halo, nitro or optionally substituted (C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{2-7} alkenyl, C_{2-7} alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, amino), or substituted oxy, substituted sulfur, substituted sulfinyl, substituted sulfonyl;

wherein the optionally-substituted substituents are optionally substituted once or more by a substituent independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxo, cyano, halo, nitro, hydroxy, C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{2-7} alkenyl, C_{2-7} alkynyl, amino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl.

5. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula Ia, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof,



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1a

wherein

R_1' , R_2' and R_3' are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, halo, nitro or optionally substituted (C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{2-7} alkenyl, C_{2-7} alkynyl, amino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl) or substituted oxy, substituted carbonyl, substituted sulfur, or a substituent forming a bicyclic ring system of which the phenyl ring to which it is attached forms part of the bicycle;

R_4' is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, cyano, halo, nitro or optionally substituted (C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{2-7} alkenyl, C_{2-7} alkynyl, amino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl) or substituted oxy, substituted carbonyl, substituted sulfur;

X' is $-OCH_2CO-$ or $-NHCH_2CO-$;

Y' $-CH_2OCH_2-$ and is bonded to the ring carbon atoms c and d ;

Z' is N;

Q' is $-CH_2-$;

the optional substituents on R_1' , R_2' , R_3' , R_4' being one or more substituents, independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxo, cyano, halo, nitro or optionally substituted (C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{2-7} alkenyl, C_{2-7} alkynyl, aryl, heteroaryl, amino) or substituted oxy, substituted sulfur, substituted sulfinyl, substituted sulfonyl; wherein the optionally substituted substituents are optionally substituted once or more by a substituent independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, oxo, cyano, halo, nitro, hydroxy, C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{2-7} alkenyl, C_{2-7} alkynyl, amino, cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; wherein oxy represents $-O-$; sulfur represents radicals

$-S-$, $\overset{\parallel}{S}$ and $>S\leq$ $-S-$, $S(O)$ or $S(O)_2$ and carbonyl represents $-C(O)-$.

6. (Cancelled)

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7. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula I, Ia, II, ~~as defined in~~ according to claims 1, 4, 5 respectively, wherein the compound includes a radioisotope selected from the group of ^{11}C , ^{18}F , ^{75}Br , ^{76}Br , ^{80}Br , ^{123}I , ^{125}I , ^{128}I , ^{131}I , ^{13}N , ^{15}O .

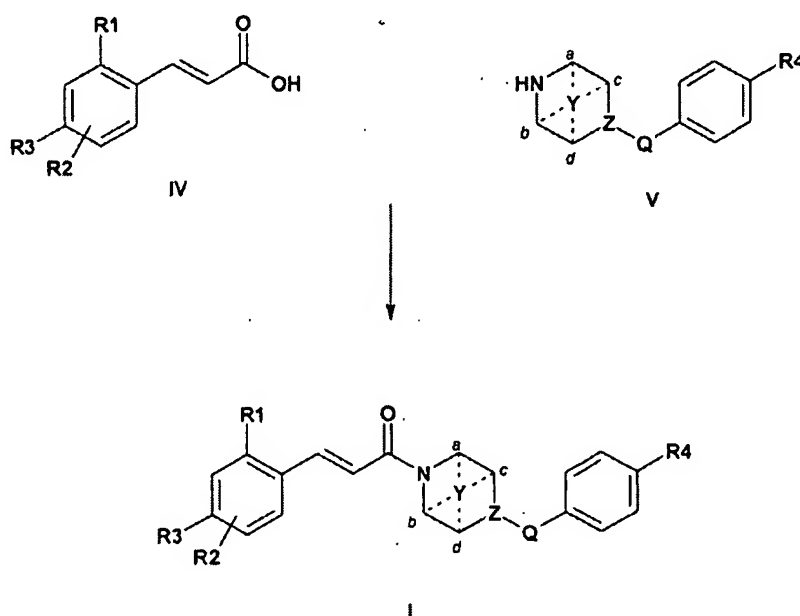
8-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a disease selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, psoriasis, dermatitis and uveitis, in a human in need of such treatment which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

12-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1 including the step of:

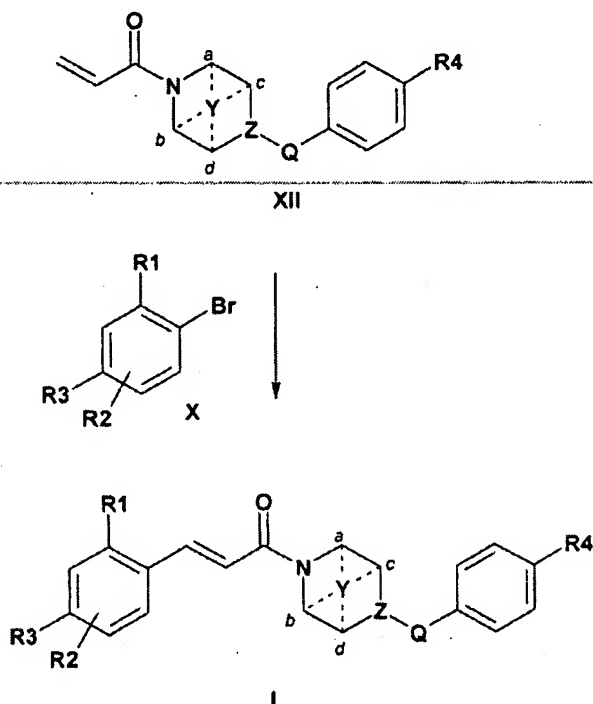
(a) condensing a compound of formula IV with a compound of formula V in the presence of a suitable amide coupling agent, to give the desired compound of formula I:



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or

(b) reacting a compound of formula X with a compound of formula XII in the presence of a suitable reagent and a base to produce the desired compound of formula I:



wherein the substituents of Formulae IV, V, X, XII are as defined in Formula (I) of claim 1 for the corresponding substituents.

18. (Original) A process according to claim 17, further including the step of temporarily protecting any interfering reactive groups and/or then isolating the resulting compound of the invention.

19. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 1 wherein R₁, R₂ and R₃ are independently a substituent forming a bicyclic ring system of which the phenyl ring to which it is attached forms part of the bicycle; which substituent is butadiene forming naphthyl, or heterobutadiene forming quinolinyl, quinoxalinyl or isoquinolinyl.

20. (Currently Amended). The compound of claim 5 wherein ~~R1', R2' and R3'~~ R1', R2'
and R3' are independently a substituent forming a bicyclic ring system of which the
phenyl ring to which it is attached forms part of the bicycle; which substituent is
butadiene forming naphthyl, or heterobutadiene forming quinolinyl, quinoxalinyl or
isoquinolinyl.